

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method comprising:
2 starting a packet timer in response to receipt of a packet, the packet timer having a first
3 threshold;
4 starting an absolute timer in response to receipt of the packet, the absolute timer having a
5 second threshold;
6 restarting the packet timer when another packet is received prior to expiration of the first
7 threshold;
8 asserting an interrupt if the first threshold expires; and
9 asserting the interrupt if the second threshold expires.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 stopping the packet timer when said another packet passes filtering;
3 completing receipt of said another packet; and
4 restarting the packet timer when receipt of said another packet is complete.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing the interrupt, when
2 asserted, to a network driver.

1 4. A method comprising:
2 starting a packet timer in response to receipt of a packet, the packet timer having a first
3 threshold;
4 starting an absolute timer in response to receipt of the packet, the absolute timer having a
5 second threshold;
6 receiving another packet prior to expiration of the first threshold; and
7 restarting the packet timer.

1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
2 asserting an interrupt if the first threshold expires; and
3 asserting the interrupt if the second threshold expires.

1 6. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
2 stopping the packet timer when said another packet passes filtering; and
3 restarting the packet timer when receipt of said another packet is complete.

1 7. A method comprising:
2 starting a packet timer in response to receipt of a packet, the packet timer having a first
3 threshold;
4 starting an absolute counter in response to receipt of the packet, the absolute counter
5 having a second threshold;
6 restarting the packet timer when another packet is received prior to expiration of the first
7 threshold;
8 asserting an interrupt if the first threshold expires; and
9 asserting the interrupt if the second threshold expires.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the absolute counter comprises a byte
2 counter, the method further comprising decrementing the byte counter by a number of
3 received bytes when said another packet is received prior to expiration of the first
4 threshold.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the absolute counter comprises a packet
2 counter, the method further comprising decrementing the packet counter by one packet
3 when said another packet is received prior to expiration of the first threshold.

1 10. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
2 stopping the packet timer when said another packet passes filtering;
3 completing receipt of said another packet; and
4 restarting the packet timer when receipt of said another packet is complete.

1 11. The method of claim 7, further comprising providing the interrupt, when
2 asserted, to a network driver.

1 12. A method comprising:
2 starting a packet timer in response to receipt of a packet, the packet timer having a first
3 threshold;
4 starting an absolute counter in response to receipt of the packet, the absolute counter
5 having a second threshold;
6 receiving another packet prior to expiration of the first threshold; and
7 restarting the packet timer.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the absolute counter comprises a byte
2 counter, the method further comprising decrementing the byte counter by a number of
3 received bytes.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the absolute counter comprises a packet
2 counter, the method further comprising decrementing the packet counter by one packet.

1 15. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
2 asserting an interrupt if the first threshold expires; and
3 asserting the interrupt if the second threshold expires.

1 16. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
2 stopping the packet timer when said another packet passes filtering; and
3 restarting the packet timer when receipt of said another packet is complete.

1 17. A network interface comprising:
2 a packet timer having a first threshold, the packet timer started in response to receipt of a
3 packet from a network, the packet timer restarted in response to receipt of another
4 packet prior to expiration of the first threshold;
5 an absolute timer having a second threshold, the absolute timer started in response to
6 receipt of the packet from the network; and
7 a controller to assert an interrupt if the first threshold expires and to assert the interrupt if
8 the second threshold expires.

1 18. The network interface of claim 17, wherein the packet timer stops when
2 said another packet passes filtering and restarts when receipt of said another packet is
3 complete.

1 19. The network interface of claim 17, wherein the controller is coupled with
2 a memory having a network driver resident thereon, the controller to provide the interrupt
3 to the network driver.

1 20. A network interface comprising:
2 a packet timer having a first threshold, the packet timer started in response to receipt of a
3 packet from a network, the packet timer restarted in response to receipt of another
4 packet prior to expiration of the first threshold;
5 an absolute counter having a second threshold, the absolute counter started in response to
6 receipt of the packet from the network; and
7 a controller to assert an interrupt if the first threshold expires and to assert the interrupt if
8 the second threshold expires.

1 21. The network interface of claim 20, the absolute counter comprising a byte
2 counter, the byte counter decremented by a number of received bytes in response to
3 receipt of said another packet prior to expiration of the first threshold.

1 22. The network interface of claim 20, the absolute counter comprising a
2 packet counter, the packet counter decremented by one packet in response to receipt of
3 said another packet prior to expiration of the first threshold.

1 23. The network interface of claim 20, wherein the packet timer stops when
2 said another packet passes filtering and restarts when receipt of said another packet is
3 complete.

1 24. The network interface of claim 20, wherein the controller is coupled with
2 a memory having a network driver resident thereon, the controller to provide the interrupt
3 to the network driver.

1 25. A system comprising:
2 a processor coupled with a bus; and
3 a network interface coupled with the bus and further coupled with a network, the network
4 interface including
5 a packet timer having a first threshold, the packet timer started in response to
6 receipt of a packet from a network, the packet timer restarted in response
7 to receipt of another packet prior to expiration of the first threshold;
8 an absolute timer having a second threshold, the absolute timer started in response
9 to receipt of the packet from the network; and
10 a controller to assert an interrupt if the first threshold expires and to assert the
11 interrupt if the second threshold expires.

1 26. The system of claim 25, further comprising:
2 a main memory coupled with the bus; and
3 a network driver resident in the main memory, the network driver to process the interrupt.

1 27. The system of claim 25, wherein the packet timer stops when said another
2 packet passes filtering and restarts when receipt of said another packet is complete.

1 28. The system of claim 25, the network interface comprising a peripheral
2 card.

1 29. A system comprising:
2 a processor coupled with a bus; and
3 a network interface coupled with the bus and further coupled with a network, the network
4 interface including
5 a packet timer having a first threshold, the packet timer started in response to
6 receipt of a packet from a network, the packet timer restarted in response
7 to receipt of another packet prior to expiration of the first threshold;
8 an absolute counter having a second threshold, the absolute counter started in
9 response to receipt of the packet from the network; and
10 a controller to assert an interrupt if the first threshold expires and to assert the
11 interrupt if the second threshold expires.

1 30. The system of claim 29, further comprising:
2 a main memory coupled with the bus; and
3 a network driver resident in the main memory, the network driver to process the interrupt.

1 31. The system of claim 29, the absolute counter comprising a byte counter,
2 the byte counter decremented by a number of received bytes in response to receipt of said
3 another packet prior to expiration of the first threshold.

1 32. The system of claim 29, the absolute counter comprising a packet counter,
2 the packet counter decremented by one packet in response to receipt of said another
3 packet prior to expiration of the first threshold.

1 33. The system of claim 29, wherein the packet timer stops when said another
2 packet passes filtering and restarts when receipt of said another packet is complete.

1 34. The system of claim 29, the network interface comprising a peripheral
2 card.

1 35. An article of manufacture comprising:
2 a machine accessible medium providing content that, when accessed by a machine,
3 causes the machine to
4 start a packet timer in response to receipt of a packet, the packet timer having a
5 first threshold;
6 start an absolute timer in response to receipt of the packet, the absolute timer
7 having a second threshold;
8 restart the packet timer when another packet is received prior to expiration of the
9 first threshold;
10 assert an interrupt if the first threshold expires; and
11 assert the interrupt if the second threshold expires.

1 36. The article of manufacture of claim 35, wherein the content, when
2 accessed, further causes the machine to:
3 stop the packet timer when said another packet passes filtering;
4 complete receipt of said another packet; and
5 restart the packet timer when receipt of said another packet is complete.

1 37. The article of manufacture of claim 35, wherein the content, when
2 accessed, further causes the machine to provide the interrupt, when asserted, to a network
3 driver.

1 38. An article of manufacture comprising:
2 a machine accessible medium providing content that, when accessed by a machine,
3 causes the machine to
4 start a packet timer in response to receipt of a packet, the packet timer having a
5 first threshold;
6 start an absolute counter in response to receipt of the packet, the absolute counter
7 having a second threshold;
8 restart the packet timer when another packet is received prior to expiration of the
9 first threshold;
10 assert an interrupt if the first threshold expires; and
11 assert the interrupt if the second threshold expires.

1 39. The article of manufacture of claim 38, the absolute counter comprising a
2 byte counter, wherein the content, when accessed, further causes the machine to
3 decrement the byte counter by a number of received bytes when said another packet is
4 received prior to expiration of the first threshold.

1 40. The article of manufacture of claim 38, the absolute counter comprising a
2 packet counter, wherein the content, when accessed, further causes the machine to
3 decrement the packet counter by one packet when said another packet is received prior to
4 expiration of the first threshold.

1 41. The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein the content, when
2 accessed, further causes the machine to:
3 stop the packet timer when said another packet passes filtering;
4 complete receipt of said another packet; and
5 restart the packet timer when receipt of said another packet is complete.

1 42. The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein the content, when
2 accessed, further causes the machine to provide the interrupt, when asserted, to a network
3 driver.

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